

## MARCHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Marcham Parish Council held on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February, 2009 in the residents' lounge, Duffield Place, Marcham at 7.30 p.m.

---

Present:

Mr. M. Denton (Chairman), Mr. C. Bough, Mr. I. Charles, Mr. W. Cumber,  
Mrs. M. Evans, Mr. D. Hutchinson, Mrs. S. Turney, Mr. D. Walton  
Clerk: Mrs. L. Martin  
Mr. John Hammond, Public Transport Officer, Oxfordshire County Council  
3 members of the public  
Joined by Mrs. C. Ricketts

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Mr. Hammond. Mr. Hammond spoke about the County Council's plans to introduce "premium routes" on the Stagecoach X30 and X31 service. This would include items such as cycle racks at certain points in rural locations to encourage bus travel, bus shelters, live bus information as buses were tracked by a GPS system, SMS texting for bus information, raised kerbing and painting on the road to mark bus stops.

Mrs. C. Ricketts joined the meeting.

Questions were invited. The Chairman advised that the 2 main areas in the village which would benefit from such improvements were the Eastbound stops by the Post Office and at the end of Longfields. Points were made regarding the problems faced by shoppers with trolleys or parents with pushchairs and also the lack of a bus shelter at the Tesco stops which was exposed.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Hammond for his presentation. Mr. Hammond then left the meeting.

- 2009/19      Apologies for Absence  
Apologies for absence had been received from Mrs. J. Allan.
- 2009/20      Declarations of Interest  
Mr. Cumber declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the agenda item relating to the Post Office in that he was a director of W. Cumber & Son (Theale) Ltd, the company which owned the property.
- 2009/21      Minutes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> January, 2009  
These were agreed and signed as a true record of the proceedings.
- 2009/22      Matters Arising from the Minutes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> January, 2009  
  
6 The Farthings – Overhanging Ivy  
The Chairman had spoken with the occupiers of this property. They wished the height to remain for privacy but would permit the side facing the road to be cut

back. They possibly had not appreciated that this would be at their expense should a contractor be asked to cut it back. The Clerk had referred this matter to the County Council.

Accounts – Cutting Churchyard in December

Council noted that the contractor Slade Estates Ltd decided themselves to cut the Churchyard in December to improve the appearance for Christmas. The Clerk was asked to advise them that, in future, they should not undertake further cutting without permission.

Letters of thanks

Council noted receipt of a letter of thanks from Marcham Café for the grant awarded, and also from The Ven. Eddie and Revd. Pamela Shirras for the Council's good wishes as they moved from the parish.

2009/23

Public Participation

Possible Closure of Marcham shop and Post Office, North Street

Mr. Buckingham spoke regarding a member declaring an interest, who should therefore have knowledge of the situation at the Post Office, and the statement by the Chairman at the last meeting that the Parish Council did not have any knowledge about the closure of the Post Office. He appealed to members that if the Council was unable to do anything as an official body, then they needed to do something as individuals to find other shop premises and to contact the M.P. He spoke of the desperation of local residents, particularly the elderly who would be unable to travel to shops elsewhere.

2009/24

Planning Applications

a) Decisions on previous applications

MAR/15255/3 Minor alterations to fenestration to rear of house, plus addition of outbuilding to front of house

Bracken Heath House, Wantage Road, Frilford Heath

Permitted 12<sup>th</sup> January, 2009

MAR/20732 Proposed two storey rear extension and front dormer window.

Demolish rear conservatory

4 Parkside

Permitted 22<sup>nd</sup> January, 2009

MAR/5011/5 Erection of garage doors to car ports on plots 1 and 4

Cotsdale, Abingdon Road

Permitted 26<sup>th</sup> January, 2009

b) Applications dealt with prior to the meeting

MAR/18688/1 proposed timber decking and iron railing to first floor bedroom doorway to form flower box area

12 Anson Close

For: Mr. C. Barrett

Comments: Council had no objections

Mr. Denton, at the meeting, declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the following application in that he was an employee at the Frilford Service Station. This application had previously been considered under delegated powers, without any involvement from Mr. Denton, and was not an item for discussion at this meeting.

FRI/2396/21 Demolish existing car wash and jet wash and build 2 new jet wash enclosures and car wash, install new fuel tank and pumps

Frilford Service Station

For: Mr. K. Rashid

Comments: Council had no objections in principle, but expressed concern regarding safety of pedestrians crossing to the shop in the path of vehicles coming from 3 new wash enclosures. It suggested that a marked path be shown. In addition it requested no parking in front of the shop.

c) Applications for consideration at the meeting

MAR/3418/7-CC Erection of single storey pitched and flat roof extension to provide new foundation stage classroom, w.c., cloakroom and storage accommodation, new lobby and covered play area. Construction of 16 space cycle shelter and other associated external work.

Marcham CE Primary School, Morland Road

For: Oxfordshire County Council

Council noted the siting of the cycle rack near to the storage facilities for the tennis association and noted that two members had checked the possible safety issues with a solid shelter, and the possibility of blocking the access to the storage. It was thought that given the location of the proposed cycle rack that these issues would not present a problem. A member queried the application number stated on the agenda as the application could not be found on the District Council's website. The Clerk would check the number before responding with Council's comments.

Comments: Council supported the application.

2009/25

District Councillor's Report

Waste Contract

Cllr. Hanna reported that the District Council had entered into a joint contract with South Oxfordshire District Council for waste. New contractors had just started in the South Oxfordshire Area and the scheme would be implemented in the Vale next year. There would be a weekly food waste collection and a fortnightly collection for recyclables. The aim was to increase recycling to 50%.

Vale of White Horse District Council – Core Strategy

Cllr. Hanna referred to the strategy in relation to the housing. The main impact on Marcham could be the extra traffic flow through the village should additional housing at Grove be agreed.

2009/26

County Councillor's Report

In the absence of Cllr. Brown no report was available.

Mr. Cumber left the room.

200927

Post Office

Rumours had been circulating regarding the closure of the village shop and Post Office. The Chairman had spoken with both the Landlord and the Tenant. It was understood that there was a legal situation with the tenancy arrangements. The tenants had not formally announced that they were leaving. At the moment the situation was a private commercial one in which the Parish Council could not interfere. Council noted that the Clerk had approached the Village Shops Development Worker at the Oxfordshire Rural Community Council to seek clarification of the Parish Council's role should the village find itself without a shop and Post Office. The Chairman read out the reply from ORCC. The question of the appointment of a professional mediator was raised. Some members were supportive of this, others felt that as both parties were local and known to each other, there was little merit in this. It was assumed they would have had opportunities to discuss matters directly between themselves, and intervention by the Parish Council would be out of order. Concerns were raised regarding the possible loss of a shop, the fact that it would probably not re-open if closed and questions were raised as to its profitability and shared understanding between the parties.

It was proposed by Mr. Hutchinson, seconded by Mr. Walton, that the Council approach the Landlord and Tenant to see if they would agree to professional mediation. Mr. Charles put an amendment and suggested that they be contacted to see if they felt such a course of action would help.

The Chairman called for a show of hands for the resolution that "the Parish Council makes an approach to the Landlord and Tenant to see if both parties have a shared understanding of the situation and to see whether a mediator would be helpful.

In favour      4

Against      4

The Chairman using his casting vote, voted in favour.

**RESOLVED:**

- (i) that the Council contacts both the Landlord and Tenant to see if both parties shared the same knowledge of the situation and to see whether they would consider mediation would be helpful.

- (ii) that the Council writes to the Post Office Authorities, supporting the retention of the Post Office facility, once the Council was made aware that the Post Office was definitely closing.

2009/28

Oxfordshire County Council – Premium Bus Routes X30 and X31

Council discussed the presentation by Mr. Hammond. Council was supportive of the idea.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that an article be placed in MAD News advising residents of the proposal and asking for their preferences
- (ii) that Council asks for information about the SMS text service for bus information to be advertised on the shelters.
- (iii) that a question be raised if the Parish Council made a financial contribution whether more facilities could be provided within the parish.

2009/29

Vale of White Horse District Council – Future Development in the Vale – Core Strategy Preferred Options

Council discussed the Strategy consultation document and received a report from the members who attended the meeting hosted by the Vale of White Horse District Council. Council expressed concern that there should be no more houses on the flood plain, that the proposals did not take into account the A34 and its congestion, and that slip roads at Lodge Hill and Drayton were needed. Cllr. Hanna advised that the infrastructure money did not come with the requirement for housing but from the developers.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that this Council supports in principle the Core Strategy Preferred Options
- (ii) that comments be made that the infrastructure should be in place to support the proposals
- (iii) that no houses should be built on the floodplain

2009/30

Vale of White Horse District Council – Air Quality Action Plan in Abingdon

Mr. Hutchinson gave a report on a meeting which he had attended. Members discussed the air quality action plan. It was noted that there was a proposal to remove the HGV park from Rye Farm, but there was no indication as to where it was to be relocated.

RESOLVED:

that this comment be submitted to the Vale of White Horse District Council.

2009/31

Parishioner of the Year 2008

Council noted that 1 late nomination had been received and considered by the

working party. The Clerk, in her report to Council had identified those on the shortlist. Council selected the recipient of the award for 2008. Council discussed the presentation of the Certificate.

2009/32

Grant Applications

Council noted that HomeStart, a previous grant applicant had confirmed that there were 3 volunteers within the parish and one family that was receiving assistance.

RESOLVED:

that a grant of £100 be awarded to HomeStart for the 2008/09 financial year.

2009/33

Annual Parish Meeting

Council noted the dates when the school hall was free and agreed the 20<sup>th</sup> May would be the date for the Annual Parish Meeting. Council discussed possible speakers and the presentation of the Parishioner of the Year Certificate.

RESOLVED:

- that
- (i) Neighbourhood Action Group and the Police be invited to speak
  - (ii) in addition that a representative from the Vale of White Horse District Council be invited to speak on the Core Strategy and the implications for Marcham.
  - (iii) if no speaker was available on the Core Strategy then a representative to speak on the Council's housing waiting list and how to be included, be invited.

2009/34

A415/North Street junction – visibility

Council discussed concerns regarding poor visibility for vehicles leaving North Street owing to the siting of a telegraph pole to the Western side. The Chairman reported that he had spoken with the owner of the garage at the Western side and he had agreed to lower a wall should relocating the telegraph pole be possible. Council was made aware of concerns by a resident regarding the number of vehicles near the junction and problems with parking for the houses in the vicinity.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that enquiries be made as to whether the telegraph pole could be resited.
- (ii) that the resident be asked to speak direct with the garage owner regarding the number of vehicles parked

2009/35

Communities and Local Government - Consultation

Real People, real power : Code of recommended practice on Local Authority Publicity

Council considered this consultation document

RESOLVED:

that no comment be submitted

2009/36

Correspondence

- a) Oxfordshire Community and Voluntary Action  
Funding advice surgeries in Abingdon library on 19<sup>th</sup> Feb and 19<sup>th</sup> March between 1.00 p.m. – 4.00 p.m.
- b) Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils – January update
- c) Oxfordshire Playing Fields Association – magazine
- d) Vale Community Safety leaflet – Winter edition
- e) Thames Water – Briefing on its response to the consultation on the Water Resources Management Plan – 5<sup>th</sup> March 7.00 p.m. Guildhall, Abingdon

RESOLVED:

that Mr. Denton and Mr. Hutchinson represent the Council.

- f) Letter regarding the poor condition of the path to the Cemetery  
Council discussed the letter and considered that the path was much better since some trees had been removed. For a country path there was not thought to be a problem.

RESOLVED:

- (i) that no action be taken on the path
- (ii) that Mrs. Evans check when the required works to the weeds were to be carried out by those undertaking community service.

2009/37

Accounts

Council noted a training course for Chairmen/Vice-Chairmen that both Mr. Denton and Mr. Walton wished to attend.

RESOLVED:

that Council funds the training fee in the sum of £80 plus vat.

Council noted correspondence from the Bank of Ireland that the Irish Government has fully protected all deposits without upper limit until 29<sup>th</sup> September 2010.

Council noted the list of cheques numbered 1957-1964 to be signed and authorised payments totalling £1932.18 in respect of administration costs, Marcham and District News paper, allotments and play area/maintenance.

2009/38

Matters Raised by members for information

Neighbourhood Action Group

Mr. Denton reported that the NAG group were going to be putting leaflets through doors regarding safety and police activity in the area. He referred to several break-ins in the village.

Grit Bins

Mrs. Evans recalled the village having grit bins in the past. She referred to the icy, slippery conditions of recent times and the benefit that grit bins would bring.

The Clerk would make enquiries as to whether these could be provided by other authorities.

2009/39

Items for MAD News

Council noted the list of items for inclusion in the village newsletter.

2009/40

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Council would be held on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March, 2009 in the residents' lounge, Duffield Place at 7.30 p.m.

The meeting closed at 9.15 p.m.

Signed ..... Date .....